

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

L-02 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 CU-02 NSCE-00 ISO-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /088 W

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O 201829Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9590

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NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97TH EXBD: ITEMS 4.1.1 AND 3.1

REFS: (A) PARIS 12640; (B) STATE 116549

1. DURING LENGTHY LUNCHEON DISCUSSION MAY 20, AMBASSADOR EL-WAKIL CONFIRMED TO BAKER VIEWPOINTS REPORTED REFTEL (A). WAKIL RECALLED THAT HIS STATEMENT REGARDING ISRAELI ADHERENCE TO A CONVENTION WHICH MIGHT BE DEVELOPED BETWEEN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WAS IN REFERENCE TO A CLAUSE IN CONVENTIONS OF THIS KIND WHICH PERMITS OTHER STATES TO ADHERE PROVIDED A STIPULATED MAJORITY OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNATORIES CONCURS. HE MADE CLEAR THAT IN THE EVENT OF A CONVENTION DEVELOPED BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND ARAB STATES, THE LATTER COULD BE EXPECTED TO OPPOSE ISRAELI ADHERENCE UP UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY RECOGNIZED ISRAEL AS A STATE. HOWEVER, ARAB OBJECTION COULD NOT IMPEDE ISRAELI ADHERENCE TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION IF A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF EUROPEAN STATES CONCURRED.

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2. WAKIL MADE CLEAR THAT HE HAD NOT ENTERTAINED THE IDEA

THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE IN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PREPARATION OF A EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON DIPLOMA EQUIVALENCE. THE INITIAL STAGE OF SUCH A CONVENTION IS USUALLY A MEETING OF SELECTED EXPERTS ORGANIZED BY THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEM. ASKED WHETHER HE SAW ANY DIFFICULTY IN ISRAEL BEING INCLUDED IN THE SMALL GROUP OF SUCH EXPERTS WHICH WOULD MEET OCTOBER 13 - 17 IN HELSINKI, EL-WAKIL SAID THAT, SINCE ISRAEL WAS NOT IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP, ITS INCLUSION AMONG 10 OR 12 EXPERTS INVITED BY SECRETARIAT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE TO HAVE CONCURRENCE OF MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP. WHEN BAKER OBSERVED THAT SOME EUROPEAN GROUP MEMBERS WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY EGYPTIAN AND OTHER ARAB VIEWS, EL-WAKIL VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IT POSE NO OBJECTION. SINCE OTHER ARAB STATES MIGHT NOT TAKE SAME LINE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR EGYPT TO PROPAGATE THIS POSITION ACTIVELY EITHER AMONG OTHER ARABS OR TO ARAB SUPPORTERS IN EUROPE. HE COMPARED THIS TO EGYPT'S SITUATION AT TIME AMENDMENT TO 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP WAS DEFEATED.

3. EL-WAKIL, WHO IS ONE OF EXPERTS GOING TO ACCRA TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF AFRICAN DIPLOMACY EQUIVALENCY CONVENTION, CLEARLY HAS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH AND SYMPATHY FOR SERIES OF DIPLOMA EQUIVALENCY CONVENTIONS WHICH IS INTENDED EVENTUALLY TO PRODUCE WORLD-WIDE EQUIVALENCY STANDARDS. HE IS OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS NOT TO HAVE EUROPEAN AND ARAB CONVENTION PREPARATIONS DISTURBED BY INTRUSION OF ISRAELI ISSUE WHICH HE FEELS WOULD, IF ISRAEL WERE TO BE SUCCESSFULLY INVITED, BREAK UP THE 1975 MEETING.

THIS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF REASONS HE AMENABLE TO STEERING

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O 201829Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9591

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ANY ISRAELI INTEREST IN THIS MATTER TOWARD EUROPEAN CONVENTION.

4. USDEL'S INQUIRIES TO UNESCO SECRETARIAT CONFIRM THAT INVITATIONS TO HELSINKI MEETING WILL BE SENT TO 10 EXPERTS SELECTED BY SECRETARIAT IN JULY. IN LIGHT OF THIS, JONES URGED NAJMAN TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO INVITING AN ISRAELI EXPERT AND UNDERTAKING THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS TO THIS END. WE PLAN FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THIS SUBJECT WITH NAJMAN MAY 22. IF IDEA SEEMS TO BE A STARTER, WE WOULD THEN RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGE SELECTED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO PURSUE THE IDEA WITH UNESCO SECRETARIAT SINCE IT IS FULLY IN CONTROL OF INVITATIONS AT THIS INITIAL EXPERT STAGE. OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT, IF ISRAEL CAN BE INCLUDED WITH AN ABLE AND CONCILIATORY EXPERT, IT WOULD THEN NATURALLY BE IN LINE FOR INCLUSION, PERHAPS BY 99TH EXBD, IN LIST OF RECOMMENDED INVITEES TO A MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS OF ALL EUROPEAN STATES TO DRAFT A CONVENTION AND A SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCE OF STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLETING IT. THE JULY 1975 INVITATION TO HELSINKI COULD THUS BE SEEN, CONFIDENTIAL

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AS INDICATED BY PARA 2 OF REFTEL (B), AS AN INITIAL STEP LEADING TOWARDS PRACTICAL ISRAELI INCLUSION IN AN IMPORTANT EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP ACTIVITY AND THEREFORE A PRECURSOR OF APPROVAL OF ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP BY THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE.

5. WITH REGARD TO SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR BEST STRATEGY WOULD BE TO KEEP STIMULATING M'BOW AND NAJMAN, WHO IS BOTH CLOSE TO M'BOW AND IN CHARGE OF UNESCO EDUCATION OFFICE UNDER WHICH CONVENTION PREPARATIONS CARRIED OUT. THEY SHOULD VIEW THEMSELVES AS PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATORS OF SUCH AN EFFORT AND WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEST IDEAS ON WHICH EUROPEAN STATES TO ACTIVATE IN SUPPORTIVE

ROLE. WE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT WYNTER MIGHT BE HELPFUL
IN OFFERING IDEAS BUT WOULD BE HESITANT TO ENCOURAGE HIS
DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN VIEW OF REPORTED RIVALRY M'BOW
SENSES TOWARD HIM.
RUSH

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